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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A receiver operating in an environment where a transmission channel, H, between a transmitter of information and said receiver has a memory corresponding to ν transmitted symbols, said receiver being responsive to an n_o plurality of receiving antennas comprising:

a pre-filter having an n_o × n_i plurality of FIR filters, F(i,k), where n_i is a number of transmitting antennas whose signals said receiver is processing, i is an index running from 1 to n_o, and k is an index running from 1 to n_i, each filter F(i,k) being responsive to a signal that is derived from one of said n_o antennas receiving antenna j, and applying its output signal to a pre-filter output point k applied to an input point, and each developing an output signal that contributes to one of n_i pre-filter outputs; and

decision logic responsive to said n_i pre-filter output points.

2. (Currently Amended) The receiver of claim 1 further comprising a sampling circuit interposed between said n_o plurality of antennas and said pre-filter that samples received signal at rate $T_s = \frac{T}{l}$, where l is an integer that is greater than 1, and T is symbol rate of a transmitter whose signals said receiver receives.

3. (Currently Amended) The receiver of claim 2 where l > 1 further comprising a preprocessor for computing coefficients of said FIR filters that result in an effective transmission channel memory between said transmitter and output of said pre-filter of N_b that is less than ν.

4. (Currently Amended) The receiver of claim 1 2 further comprising a preprocessor for computing where coefficients of said FIR filters are computed in a processor in response to a block of N_s symbols that is received by said receiver, and installing the computed coefficients in said FIR filters.

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5. (Delete)

6. (Currently Amended) The receiver of claim 4 where said coefficients of said FIR filters are computed and installed once every time interval during which transfer characteristics of said transmission channel, H , exhibits a significant change are substantially constant.

7. (Delete)

8. (Delete)

9. (Delete)

10. (Delete)

11. (Currently Amended) The receiver of claim 10-1 wherein said decision logic is adapted to receive from said transmitting antennas transmitted signals that were encoded in a space-time encoding schema.

12. (Original) The receiver of claim 2 where said plurality of FIR filters is expressed by matrix W , and W is computed by $W_{opt}^* = \tilde{B}_{opt}^* R_{xy} R_{yy}^{-1}$,

$W_{opt}^* = \tilde{B}_{opt}^* R_{xx} H^* (H R_{xx} H^* + R_{nn})^{-1}$, or $W_{opt}^* = \tilde{B}_{opt}^* (R_{xx}^{-1} + H^* R_{nn}^{-1} H)^{-1} H^* R_{nn}^{-1}$, where R_{xx} is an autocorrelation matrix of a block of signals transmitted by a plurality of transmitting antennas to said n_o antennas via a channel having a transfer characteristic H , R_{nn} is an autocorrelation matrix of noise received by said plurality of n_o antennas during said block of signals transmitted by said transmitting antennas, $R_{xy} = R_{xx} H^*$, $R_{yy} = H R_{xx} H^* + R_{nn}$, and \tilde{B}_{opt}^* is a sub-matrix of matrix B_{opt}^* , where $B_{opt} = \text{argmin}_B \text{trace}(R_{ee})$ subject to a selected constraint, R_{ee} being the error autocorrelation function.

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13. (Original) The receiver of claim 12 wherein said plurality of FIR filters are subjected to designer constraints relative to any one or a number of members of the following set: transmission channel memory, size of said block, effective memory of the combination consisting of said transmission channel and said pre-filter; n_i , n_o , autocorrelation matrix R_{xx} , autocorrelation matrix R_{nn} , value of factor l in said sampling circuit, and decision delay.

14. (Currently Amended) The receiver of claim 12, where said matrix W is expressible by $W = [W_0 \ W_1 \ \dots \ W_{N_r-1}]^T$, where matrix W_q , q being an index between 0 and N_r , is a matrix that specifies q^{th} tap coefficients of said FIR filters.

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15. (Original) The receiver of claim 12 where said constraint restricts B so that $B^T \Phi = I_{n_r}$, where $\Phi^T = [0_{n_r \times n_r m} \ I_{n_r} \ 0_{n_r \times n_r (N_b - m)}]$ and m is a selected constant.

16. (Original) The receiver of claim 15 where $B = \bar{R}^{-1} \Phi (\Phi^T \bar{R}^{-1} \Phi)^{-1}$, \bar{R} is a sub-matrix of a matrix $R^\perp = R_{xx} - R_{xy} R_{yy}^{-1} R_{yx}$.

17. (Original) The receiver of claim 12 where said constraint restrict B so that $B^T B = I_{n_r}$.

18. (Original) The receiver of claim 17 where $B = U [e_{n_r N_b} \ \dots \ e_{n_r (N_b + 1) - 1}]^T$, each element e_p is a vector having a 0 element in all rows other than row p , at which row the element is 1, and U is a matrix that satisfies the equation $\bar{R} = U \Sigma U^T$, Σ being a diagonal matrix.